

REMARKS

Claim 6 has been canceled by a prior amendment without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of any canceled claims in the subject application or subsequently filed continuing applications.

Claims 1, 20, 23 and 41 have been amended.

Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 43 are present in the subject application.

In the Office Action dated January 25, 2008, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0097331 (Zillig et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,406,408 (Price, II) and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0033885 (Knox et al.). Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended by Primary Examiner Hotaling and Examiner Lim during the recent Interview of July 16, 2008. During the Interview, Applicants showed the Examiners video clips of operation of a present invention embodiment, where a user stands and manipulates a rod (including a game controller) to control actions in a video game. Applicants further indicated: that the Zillig et al. publication relates to handles for a bicycle type apparatus that accommodates users in a seated position and relays signals measured by the apparatus to a video game console; that the Price, II patent relates to a system with a striking member to engage a game element; and that the Knox et al. publication relates to a type of strain gauge sensor.

An agreement was reached, where the Primary Examiner suggested modifying the claim language to further clarify the rod as an input device for the game. The Primary Examiner

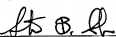
further indicated that these modifications would overcome the rejection, but that an update search was needed prior to allowance of the case.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reasons discussed above. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application, independent claims 1, 20, 23 and 41 have been amended in accordance with the Interview. In particular, independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended and recite the features of controlling a corresponding desired action within the gaming application based on forces applied to the rod by the user. Independent claims 20 and 41 have been amended and recite the features of applied forces effecting a deformation of the rod measurable by at least one sensor to control a corresponding desired action within the gaming application.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 20, 23 and 41 and their corresponding dependent claims are considered to overcome the rejection and be in condition for allowance.

The application, having been shown to overcome issues raised in the Office Action, is considered to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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